

South Asian Peoples

The greatest concentration of lostness on Earth

imb
connecting

BHUTAN

30-Day Prayer Guide



The Kingdom of Bhutan, a tiny landlocked nation nestled within the folds of the Himalayas between India and China, has been protected from outside influences for many years. To guard their culture, the nation did not allow tourists to visit Bhutan until 1974, and neither television nor internet was allowed until 1999. The fourth king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck made many changes during his reign, and in 2006, at age 50, he handed the throne to his son Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, an Oxford-educated young man who has ushered an era of greater democracy into the Kingdom of Bhutan.



Bhutan prides itself on its GNH. Many years ago their king declared, "Gross national happiness is more important than gross national product." Today, Bhutan is ranked eighth happiest nation in the world.

The official language is Dzongkha. The name translates as the language of the Dzong, which is the imposing multi-purpose buildings that have served many functions in Bhutan, including monastery, fortress and government center.



Buddhism is not just a religion in Bhutan, it is a "way of life" and at least 75 percent of the people of Bhutan are Buddhists. The official religion is Drukpa Kaygu, closely related to Tibetan Buddhism. Buddhists believe there is no God and no soul. They teach that the only way to attain peace is by emptying oneself of all human desires, which they believe cause all suffering. They believe the consequences for deeds of the present life, good or bad, will be carried over into the next life in a constant cycle of reincarnation. Many make offerings and pray to Buddha and other saints, hoping that their good works will earn enough merit to better their lives in their next reincarnation. Most Bhutanese believe they must live many more lives to escape the cycle of reincarnation, which fosters a sense of hopelessness and resignation – in spite of the national reputation.



BHUTAN

30-Day Prayer Guide

- Day 1** Pray for the government, prime minister and His majesty the king of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. Pray that they will gain wisdom from God, submit to the one true God and lead their nation to follow Him.
- Day 2** The Buddhists in Bhutan worship evil spirits. They believe in evil gods who, as told in myths, were convinced to use their evil powers to protect the people, but the people must give offerings in return. In the Buddhist temples you see large statues of Buddha, but also statues or separate areas devoted to the local evil deities. Pray that Bhutanese Buddhists will see evil for what it is. Ask God to grant them faith in His power so that they no longer have to fear the evil spirits, but can rebuke them in the power of Jesus' name.
- Day 3** Pray for national believers who received training in how to share their faith, disciple new believers and form new churches across Bhutan. Pray that they obey God and be bold in their faith against strong persecution.
- Day 4** Pray for Bhutanese Christian students, asking God to equip them, empower them and use them to make Jesus known to their generation and in their country. Pray that the Father will protect them from the evil one – and protect their testimonies for His name's sake. Ask that they live holy, obedient lives – completely sacrificed – totally committed to Jesus. May they shine like the stars in the heavens as they hold out the Word of Life.
- Day 5** Pray that the Bhutanese church will continue being Bhutanese not western or Indian. Pray that the church will worship using their local languages, not trade languages, so that the songs may spread easily and naturally from church to church and house to house as they worship the Father in their mother tongue.
- Day 6** Pray for a spirit of boldness among the believers to keep sharing the Gospel message. The country is always discussing anti-conversion laws. Pray that the Gospel will go forth unhindered even in the face of political pressures.
- Day 7** The first voice recordings of the Gospel of Luke in a native language have been developed and distributed in Bhutan. This is some of the first Gospel material in the heart language of the people. Claim Father's promise that His Word will not return void!
- Day 8** Pray for South Asian Buddhist-background believers to embrace the concept of house churches and church planting as opposed to a more traditional mindset that slows the growth of the church and the number of people hearing about Jesus.
- Day 9** Pray against the enemy who has spread gossip, greed and a spirit of disunity among the ethnic Nepali and ethnic Bhutanese churches. Pray that the desire for money will not become a stumbling block to the growth of God's Kingdom in Bhutan.
- Day 10** Pray for ethnic leaders who will ask, "What's it going to take to win my people to Jesus" to rise up from each of the people groups of Bhutan and then be obedient to do whatever it takes.
- Day 11** Pray that cross-cultural workers will be catalytic agents in Bhutan allowing the local Bhutanese people to "finish the task" among the majority peoples such as the Kenka, Ngalongpa and Brokpa.
- Day 12** Praise the Lord for the Christian evangelistic materials that have been and are being produced for the people of Bhutan. Pray that these tools will be well received and that they will clearly communicate the Truth. Pray for a great harvest as a result of their distribution.





BHUTAN

30-Day Prayer Guide

- Day 13 As in any country, children are the future of Bhutan. Pray that Bhutanese boys will become godly men and leaders of their homes. Pray that Bhutanese girls will realize that through faith in Christ, they can become God's princesses - precious in His sight. Pray that even the little children will perceive God's truth and be instruments in His hands to lead their parents to know Jesus Christ.
- Day 14 Pray that the Gospel will permeate Bhutan. Pray that Father will shower His grace upon the Bhutanese people calling them unto Himself. Pray that they will realize that God has a perfect plan for their lives if only they will place their trust in Him. Pray that they will understand the Truth so that peace can replace their fear.
- Day 15 Pray that the people of Bhutan will understand the difference between reincarnation and Biblical resurrection. Pray that through the study of God's Word and the witness of His children, the Bhutanese people will understand that their only hope for abundant life comes through the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- Day 16 Pray that New Testaments in three major languages of Bhutan will be completed without hindrance. Pray that these resources will go forth and create the impact only the Word of God in the heart language can create.
- Day 17 Pray for the Kurtopa (Gurtu) people who live in the Lhuntse District in northern Bhutan near the China border. Numbering approximately 16,000, they are one of the few people groups in Bhutan yet to be engaged with the Gospel. It is estimated that at least 80 percent of the Kurtopa have never heard the Good News. Known for their embroidery and baskets, the Kurtopa count it a privilege to send their sons to the monastery for a time. The royal family traces their ancestry to this area. Pray that the Kurtopa will soon become "children of the King!"
- Day 18 Pray for believers who seek to take the message across barriers to other ethnic Bhutanese peoples. Ask God to lead Bhutanese believers across the paths of men and women of peace (Luke 10:1-8) whom He has prepared. Pray that these households will open doors of opportunity for spreading the Gospel into far-reaching corners of the country.
- Day 19 Pray that every Bhutanese believer, whether literate or oral, will realize their responsibility to "sow the seed" among their lost brothers and sisters. Pray that they will prayerwalk their neighborhoods ready to share the "hope that lies within them."
- Day 20 Pray for the churches and believers who are being persecuted by their neighbors. Pray that the neighbors will come to Jesus. Pray that God will give the believers peace and strength to face the persecution and remain strong in their faith in the Lord.
- Day 21 Pray with us, "Father, we know that you are already working in the hearts of South Asian Buddhists. Lead your servants to meet these men and women of peace. Orchestrate divine appointments that will reveal Buddhists who are willing to open their homes to the Gospel for the purpose of salvation." Pray that new churches will start in their homes.
- Day 22 Pray that Bhutanese church leaders will be hard workers with integrity, making themselves accountable to God, to their church families and to their communities. Pray that they will not be tempted by money or power in any way.





BHUTAN

30-Day Prayer Guide

- Day 23** Ask God to guide, protect and defend those Bhutanese who are His true followers and trustworthy teachers. Pray that false teachers will be exposed, and that their teachings will be refuted by the Word of God. Pray that those who follow false doctrines will find their way to the truth in God's Word.
- Day 24** Bhutanese believers coming from a Buddhist background may find it difficult to step away from their religious upbringing. Biblical discipleship revolves around a personal relationship with Jesus Christ worked out in the context of the Body of Christ. Pray that Bhutanese believers will develop a deep thirst for the Word of God, for prayer and for fellowship with other believers. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw them naturally into groups for worship and praise and growth.
- Day 25** Children are often taken to temples to live as novice monks because their families are too poor to feed and educate them. Also, Buddhist teaching is that the mother will "gain merit" for her "next life" because she sacrifices one of her sons to the temple. Pray that Bhutanese mothers will hear about the Son of God who was sent to earth in order that she and her family might find eternal life with God. Pray that children who are sent to serve as novice monks will have the opportunity to hear about Jesus, making it possible for them to be adopted into God's family.
- Day 26** Ask God to reveal to new Bhutanese believers the joy of being able to pray anytime, anywhere. No longer is prayer confined to the temple! Praise God that Christ's death on the cross made a way for us to enter the Holy of Holies. Pray that new believers will be bold in their faith, sharing the truth with other Buddhists so they, too, can have access to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!
- Day 27** Sometimes the most effective prayers are the simplest ones. Please pray today that at least one Bhutanese will place his/her faith in Christ and receive salvation. Pray with boldness that many Bhutanese will become followers of Christ each day.
- Day 28** Bhutanese people often do household chores on the flat roofs of their homes, many singing or humming while they work. Because most villages are in valleys, everyone in the village can hear them. It is called the "song of the heart." How powerful it would be if these songs from the heart praised the One who made them, the surrounding valleys and mountains and gave them reason, purpose and salvation through His death on the cross. Pray that newly written praise songs in the national language of Bhutan will quickly spread across the rooftops, celebrating Christ's resurrection from the dragon's lair of death and calling others to faith in Him.
- Day 29** Bhutan has many things to offer tourists: beautiful mountains, clear rushing rivers, warm and friendly people. As Christian tourists travel in Bhutan, pray that they will seek out opportunities to share the Gospel with the Bhutanese people they encounter. Ask God to provide divine appointments for them, taking advantage of opportunities to witness to tour guides, hotel and restaurant vendors, drivers and others they meet. Many tourists visit Bhutan to explore the Buddhist religion. Pray that these tourists will experience only emptiness as they visit Buddhist holy sites. Ask God to draw them to His Holiness and to fill the void in their lives with His Holy Spirit.
- Day 30** "This was the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:23-24, NKJV). There are special seasons of harvest in the ways of God. Pray that the season of harvest will come quickly to Bhutan and that it will linger! Pray that the Bhutanese will see God's power manifested in their lives, and that they will respond with amazement and wonder and receive His love, His Son, His salvation.





BHUTAN

30-Day Prayer Guide



How much do you know about the Kingdom of Bhutan? You can learn more about this Himalayan kingdom that needs to know about Christ's redeeming love at web sites such as www.kingdomofbhutan.com. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit to prompt you with needs for intercession.

Locate a map that shows the political provinces, choose one province and ask God to move on every home and business to restrain wrong and refresh right, to pour out His Spirit upon the area and to create a longing for Him. Pray that community leaders will commend the spread of the Gospel and not obstruct it. Pray that Bhutanese Christians will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News with all those around them. Rejoice because one day there will be Bhutanese gathered around the throne worshipping the King of Kings!



South Asian Peoples

The greatest concentration of lostness on Earth

imb
connecting

Bangladesh ~ Bhutan ~ India ~ Maldives ~ Nepal ~ Pakistan ~ Sri Lanka ~ and throughout the world ~ SouthAsianPeoples.imb.org

